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SUMMARY

Broadcasts on Party activities reveal some intensification of official efforts to raise the quality of the Communist Party membership--at the expense of its numerical strength if necessary. The radio and press criticism of the weak spots in the Party's political and ideological armor which was sporadic around the middle of the year culminated in a concerted drive against the politically insincere and unreliable following the Republican Party Congresses of last September. That drive was given added impetus by the 19th All-Union Party Congress in October. Malenkov's pronouncement that dishonesty and breach of discipline are "incompatible" (nesovmestimy) with continued membership in the Party is now significantly quoted as a warning against any irregularity. There is evidence of a general tightening up of Party discipline, particularly among the executive personnel of the rayon-Secretary and plant-manager level. These are repeatedly cautioned against the erroneous assumption that they are more or less immune to Party discipline. Efforts to curb the high-handedness of local leadership by encouraging criticism from the ranks, however, are only partially successful since, as is so frequently admitted, fear of retaliation tends to restrain the would-be critics. Appeals are therefore made to Party Committees on all levels "to support honest and principled criticism" (podderzhat chestnuyu i printsipialnuyu kritiku) and thereby allay the fear of Party members to take an open stand against the wrongdoings of their superiors.

In the field of ideology attention continues to be focused on doctrinal purity and the "indivisibility" of Communist theory and practice. Propagandists are urged to seek and find an answer to every question in the Marxist bible, and refrain from venturing into "theoretical abstractions" which have no apparent relation to the daily problems of the Soviet State and people. Alien, hostile and religious influences are inferentially admitted as making some inroads among the Ukrainian youths and even Komsomols. Such influences, it is claimed, are made possible by insufficient zeal in the propagation of the "friendship of peoples" idea, on the one hand, and the inadequate exposure of Ukrainian bourgeois-nationalist ideology, on the other.

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